ELEVEN.

JAMES CLARENCE HARVEY.

"Eleven times one are eleven,"
Said a maid whose sparkling eyes
Expressed far more in a single glance
Than a thousand grown-up sights.
"Eleven times one are eleven," said she:
"Eleven years old to-day, that's me."

"Eleven times one are eleven,"
Ah maid with the nut-brown hair,
Will your life be as free at eleven times two
From the burdens of toil and care?
When you whisper the words "eleven times two,"
Life will have less of the roseate hue.

"Eleven times one are eleven,"
And, no doubt, you are wishing now
That your silken robes might sweep the floor,
And jewels adorn your brow,
Little one, you are sweeter and happier far
Than the stately, grown-up beauties are.

"Eleven times one are eleven."
If time would but pause just here,
And leave us our childhood's hopes and joys,
Life would never be dark and drear.
So live while you can, little maid so fair,
Ere the snow-white silver streaks your hair.

Correspondence.

HOW TO OBTAIN HONEY AND TO SWARM BEES

[For The Progressive Farmer.]

The slats in the top of the honey box should be one and three-fourth inches from the centre, instead of one and a half as before stated, because bees build their honeycomb thicker than for brood. Nice, clean comb is worth $2 per pound to put in the lower part of the hive for a new swarm, or into the honey boxes, if nice and thick. It can be stuck by wax made of four parts rosin melted; then add two parts beeswax, one part pure tallow, or half as much linseed oil in a pan large enough to touch the edge of the comb. First have it cut in shape with straight edge to fit on where it is to stick. (It being of great value, strips no more than three-fourths of an inch wide can be used.) A thin, sharp knife, dipped in hot water, will cut the dry comb smooth.

To preserve the dry comb from the worms fumigate it with sulsulphur sprinkled on live coals, or melt it and dip strips of cotton rags in it and burn, placing the comb far enough above so as not to melt the comb, and make nearly air-tight around the sulphur so as to force the smoke up into the comb, which must not be so tight together that the smoke cannot get between. If the comb has to be kept sometime it will need the second fumigation. Air it before giving it to the bees.

When the bees begin to store honey, put on the box with the whole top. When nearly full, draw a fine wire under the bottom, or a thin knife; raise the box one-eighth of an inch, blow in smoke all round; then raise the box and put the box with the slat top under it on the same place of the one raised. This mode will be found to give several pounds more of honey, as it supplies the bees with room when they begin to be crowded, and enables them to keep right on with comb-building in the new box. When the honey-gathers fill up and finish the top box, which may then be taken off by cutting under it as before; blow in smoke; take it off; cover the lower box with a piece of cotton cloth, or thin plank; rap on the box of honey, gently, and as the bees come out, brush them off at the entrance of the parent hive; then the bees will all be at their own home, and it sometimes happens that the queen is in the top, too.

Before eleven o'clock a. m. is the best time for these operations, as a large part of the bees are out to work.

But larger quantities of honey are obtained by using movable hives and honey extractors. The honeycomb when full and nearly all sealed is removed from the hive (first fumigating, as directed, with rag or funkwood smoke). Shave off the sealing with the sharp knife, dipped in hot water; then put the comb with frame in the extractor, revolve fast enough to sling out the honey; then return the comb to the bees. By this method much labor is saved to the bees, besides the amount of honey consumed by the bees to make the comb.

If honey is desired in boxes, larger quantities may be obtained by using boxes without sides or bottom, made for one, two or more combs as desired, allowing one and three-fourth inches for each comb, and one-fourth inch between for passage of bees, placing guide-combs accordingly. Set these boxes side by side on the top of the frames across the hive. Stop the outer ends with glass, which may be tied with wire or strings. When any are filled, remove and supply with another. Disturb the bees as little as possible in the unfinished boxes. Glass may be put on the the boxes, if desired. Honey must be kept where the bees cannot get to it, or they will remove it for you.

To make a new swarm, use the smoke as before. Select a frame of brood comb, nearly full of brood and eggs and some honey having the queen bee on it, from a good strong stock about ready to swarm; put in the centre of clean hive and set in the place of another strong stock, removed twenty or more feet. Then fill in three or four combs of brood from other strong stocks or dry comb, if you have it; then you will have a new stock nearly as good as an old one—sure to stay. It is not best to make swarms small; they are not profitable for honey. Swarms may be made from gums, boxes, &c., by drumming out. They are much more apt to stay in new hive if a piece of comb is fastened—brood in it is better still. Blow under the smoke; turn the old stock bottom up; set the gum, box, hive or what you wish the bees to go into on top of the inverted stock of bees; make tight around, then gently drum the hive about five minutes, and you are pretty certain to have a new swarm of bees. Set the new one in the place of the old one. Remove the old hive twenty or more feet, or if that cannot be, turn old one around with back to the new.

Joel Curtis.

P. S.—Please allow me to correct in my article, March 24th, paragraph on loss of queen, read: "Eggs to be cut out of best stock of bees; piece of comb 1½ inch square, and inserted in hole in the comb of the queenless swarm among the bees." And paragraph on feeding—read: "Teacupful of honey instead of teaspoonful.

BOOK FARMING.

The prejudice against book farming is gradually dying out. The old adage that "experience is a dear school, but fools will learn in no other," as as true of farming as of every other avocation. And the farmer who will not profit by the experience of others may be fairly set down as a self-opinionated, obstinate individual. No man willingly accepts such characterization of himself. Most of those who declaim most violently against book farming are willing to acknowledge that they learn much from observation, that is, from the experience of others. But this experience is just as valuable when written down and printed as when observed, provided that care is taken to note all the facts with regard to it. Lack of this care is the basis of much just objection to the conclusion often drawn from experiments, whether observed or printed. So in the end it all comes to a question of ability in sifting and comparing results so as to make experience available. A farmer who has not this ability will often be misled by his own experience, while one who has it can derive some benefit from everything he reads, even though he is obliged to reject the larger part as not applicable to his case. It requires a first-rate, practical farmer to get the greatest good from reading agricultural books and journals, for he knows best what advice to adopt and what to reject, though often securing some valuable hints from both.—*American Agriculturist.*

Many are prone to allow their horses to run out through all kinds of weather, until late in the fall and until their coats become rough and shaggy. This is wrong. Frosty grass is not good for horses that have been used to dry feed and must do much hard work. They should be stabled as soon as the nights become uncomfortably cool, and then they may be turned out to grass again after the sun has dispelled the frost,—*Philadelphia Record.*

Farm Notes.

STRAINING WHILE MILKING.

In the Island of Jersey cows are milked in tall buckets, with a strainer of fine cloth over the top, which prevents impurities from going through. It is by attention to such methods of cleanliness, as well as by the excellence of their cows, that Jersey dairymen have achieved their reputation as good butter makers.

MAKING BACON.

Most farmers smoke the shoulders and hams of hogs, but few know that an equal improvement can be made in side meat by turning it into bacon. The smoke adds not only to the flavor of the meat, but to its digestibility. It does one by doing the other, as anything eaten with a relish secures a large portion of gastric juice and thus promotes digestion.

MOISTURE FOR FRUIT.

A damp atmosphere is no disadvantage in keeping fruit, provided it is near the freezing temperature and the fruit is not bruised nor handled frequently. Apples have been kept in perfect condition under water when ice froze on the surface. But any break in the skin soon causes decay, and the fruit when taken from the water must be used at once, as otherwise it will rot rapidly.

BURNING DRY LEAVES.

Large quantities of leaves drift in secluded places and are often burned to get them out of the way. A better use for them is to apply them as a mulch to trees in orchards where they will protect the ground from deep freezing and thus benefit the trees more than their manurial value. Leaves are richer in potash than is the wood of the trees on which they grow, and apple-tree leaves especially should be left where they fall.

BEDDING FOR PIGS.

Fattening hogs should have enough finely-cut straw to make a comfortable bed, but not so much as to entirely bury themselves as they are inclined to do when they get a chance. In cold weather the sudden change in temperature, when the hogs come from their warm nests to feed, often gives them serious colds. With shelter from storms and a dry floor, a little straw for bedding is better than a large quantity.

BURNING BONES.

Unless farmers have conveniences for grinding bones their reduction by burning is probably the best available plan. Something is lost in this way by escape of ammonia, but the proportion of this in old bones is very small and not worth saving by the expensive process of pounding the bones into small pieces by hand, and then reducing them imperfectly by acids and alkalies. The trouble with this hand process is that it costs more than the whole thing is worth to get the bones in condition to apply as a fertilizer.

SHEPHERD DOGS.

One breed of dogs should be excepted from the condemnation which justly attaches to the canine race. This is the collie or shepherd dog, a breed which, by long training has developed an aptitude for good service that has become hereditary. It requires little labor to teach a well-bred collie to do anything that is wanted with sheep or cattle, and to those handling such stock one of these dogs is worth more than two extra men or boys.

THE DIFFERENCE IN PIGS.

In every litter of pigs there will be one or two decidedly inferior specimens, and perhaps as many more better than the average, though not in so marked a degree. These "titmen," as farmers call them, should be got rid of as early as possible. The feed they eat does not make frame or fat as in their more thrifty fellows, and at killing time there will often be a difference of fifty to seventy-five pounds in hogs having the same advantages. It is usual with some farmers to kill or sell these largest hogs first, and then keep the less thrifty a few weeks longer until they come up to the standard weight. But the better way is to reverse this and feed those longest which show greatest gain.

SICK HOGS.

Thirty years ago the hog was thought least likely of any farm animal to suffer from disease. Now, at least in the West, hogs are regarded in insurance parlance as "extra hazardous property." One of the reasons is that hogs get less green feed than formerly. Years ago hogs were allowed the run of a pasture or orchard in summer, and fattened when a year or more old in the Fall. Now we try to force fattening while the pig should be growing. We succeed, but there is a doubt with many whether this success is not too dearly bought. We should, at least, insist that breeding sows should be left to run at large with only moderate feeding, and that, as far as possible, of a succulent character.

HIRING EXTRA HELP.

The one thing which no farmer can afford is to let crops waste for lack of help to harvest them. Low as prices of produce may be, the latter will always pay cost of harvesting, and at this time all other expenses have been incurred. It is better to hire two, three or more extra men for a few days than to allow crops to suffer. This is especially true of the potato crop, which is so easily and entirely destroyed by frost. Again, with corn, which, being not so perishable, is usually left till the last, yet both grain and fodder waste enough to pay for doing the work when it should be done, while it always costs more to husk and house corn in the shorter days of November and December than it would have done at the proper time in October.

HABITS OF OWLS AND HAWKS.

Farmers' poultry yards are often subject to the ravages of owls and hawks. Some knowledge of the habits of these depredators is of value in helping to devise means for their extermination. An old sportsman says that both owls and hawks devour their victims feathers and all, and the feathers, being indigestible, are rolled up in balls and voided. By watching for these evidences of their roosting places in forests the vermin may be shot or trapped, as they go to the same place to roost every night. As for hawks, they may be caught nearer home. A hawk, just before swooping down on its prey, selects some sightly place from which it can discern any possible danger. By placing a strong steel trap just where the hawk is accustomed to light he may be captured and killed.

THE GROWTH OF THE BEE.

All the members of a colony of bees are produced from eggs laid by a single perfectly-developed female, the queen. The workers are also females, but are incapable of reproducing. The drones are males.

When the weather grows warm in the spring, and the bees begin to find honey and pollen, the queen begins to deposit her eggs, which are small, white objects, about a sixteenth of an inch in length, and only visible by turning the cells so that the light may strike the bottom.

In three days the eggs hatch into small, white maggots. These are carefully fed and nursed by the worker bees, and grow rapidly until they nearly fill the cell. In six days the cell is capped over by the bees. The grub now surrounds itself with an extremely thin silken cocoon, and passes into a state of repose, the *pupa* state, during which it assumes the form of a bee, but still retains the whitish color of the grub, until nearly ready to emerge from the cell, which takes place in twenty-one days from the laying of the egg.

When ready to emerge, the young bee begins cutting its way out, first cutting a crescent-shaped hole, and gradually enlarging this until large enough for egress.

The development of queens and drones is similar to that of workers. The queen, however, is raised in a large cell, hanging vertically, instead of a horizontal cell, like the workers. She is also supplied with a special food. When one or more queen cells are safely sealed over, the old queen will leave the hive, accompanied by a *swarm* of workers and drones. This will occur, if the weather be favorable, about a week before the young queens begin to hatch.

Two queens cannot agree together in the same hive, and the first queen hatched, if not interfered with, will destroy all the others by tearing open their cells, and stinging the occupants. But if the honey yield be abundant, the workers may prevent her doing this, in which case, if the ear be applied to the side of the hive, on the seventh or eighth day after the first swarm has left it, peculiar *peep, peep* may be heard, clear and shrill, followed by hoarser notes. The first is made by the liberated queen, the second is an answer by one still in the cell. When this sound is heard, another swarm may confidently be expected within two days, and this may be continued until three or four swarms have left the hive.—*Farm and Fireside.*

SHEEP BENEFICIAL TO PASTURES.

Sheep effect very marked improvement in pastures. Pastures which have become so thoroughly run out and overrun by briers and bushes as not to be worth fencing for cattle pasturing, by being given over to the sheep for a few years, will be brought into a productive condition. Any pasture used for cattle or horses may profitably have as many sheep added to the stock as there are acres in the pasture, and the pasture will be benefited thereby. Sheep eat so many kinds of plants which cattle and horses refuse, that the addition of a few sheep, by keeping down those plants which other stock refuse, really increases the product of grasses for other stock.

A committee of the Bingham (Mass.) Agricultural Society once remarked in their report that "a flock of sheep is as beneficial to the pastures of a large farm as the pruning knife is to the orchard, as the broom to the kitchen. They will effectually clear up the weeds, briers, bushes and other rubbish, thereby saving the farmer more labor with the bush-scythe, and by their droppings prepare the field for the plow. It is for these purposes, for raising mutton, and for clearing up old farms, many of which are becoming foul, and possibly for the exportation of full-blood sheep, particularly bucks, that the farmers in this immediate vicinity should engage in the raising of sheep."

Harvey Wolcott, Esq., of Agawam, Mass., who has been engaged in sheep husbandry many years, said: "I have two pastures twenty acres each. I have kept sheep on one of them about seven years in ten, and the other three in ten. The one I kept sheep in the most is worth twenty-five per cent. more than the one I pastured with cattle. I have an orchard of 400 or 500 trees, of about five acres. When the apples are the size of walnuts, I turn my sheep in. They pick up the green fruit which falls to the ground, thereby destroying many worms. I allow them to remain until the middle of July, and I think they benefit the orchard more than one-half the expenses of their pasturing through the season."—*N. E. Farmer.*

FEEDING FOWLS.

If we watch the fowls, they will, says the London *Live Stock Journal*, easily tell what they desire. If you are feeding corn, throw down a full handful of oats; if they greedily take the oats and leave the corn, it indicates that they require something else. Try grass, meal, ground bone, pounded oyster shells, cooked vegetables, all of which they will accept or reject according to their requirements. Feed regularly and never more than they will eat up clean, for they will walk away from the food as soon as they have enough; never leave it on the ground. Feed early and late, and let them get hungry—that is, have regular intervals between meals; the practice of keeping food by them all the time promotes an excess of fat. Allow as much exercise as possible. Throw hay upon the floor or in the yard, place in it a few handfuls of some kind of grain they do not receive often, and let them hunt and scratch for it. Feed growing chicks liberally, avoiding too much corn. Oats ground and warm in the morning is one of the best foods that can be given. Always give whole grains at night. In summer give no corn but once or twice a week; vegetables and grass are much better for them. Laying hens must have meat or milk. Eggs cannot be produced without nitrogenous material in some shape. Bones are almost absolutely essential. Above all, give pure, clean, fresh drinking water.—*Farm and Garden.*